

**Bergen Highlands
United Methodist
Church**

The People of the
United Methodist
Church

- Open Hearts
- Open Minds
- Open Doors

Inside this issue:

Famous Methodists	2
Missions	3
Ridgewood Symphony Tickets	3
Pancake Supper	3
Valentine Boxes	4
Candy Demo.	4
Next Senior Gatherings	5
Ross Scholarship	6
Dates	6
Sermon Series	7
Bible Study	8
Soup Supper	8
Blood Drive	8
IFTAR Dinner	9
Lenten Bible Reading	10
Holy Week	11
Easter	12
Flower Order Form	12
Puzzle	13
Best Stuff/Strawberry	14
Lego Club	15
Lego Coloring Page	16
Prayer List	17
Calendar	18

the HIGHLANDER

Volume 17 Issue 2

March/April 2026

**Dear Bergen Highlands
Family,**

May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you all! How is your Lenten journey going? Lent is a sacred journey that leads us to the cross and, ultimately, to the empty tomb. This is a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. It is an invitation to slow down, to examine our hearts, and to return to God with honesty and humility. In the busyness of our daily lives, Lent reminds us to pause and remember what matters most: our relationship with the One who loves us without limit.

As the prophet Joel says, "Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love" (Joel 2:13), it is time to bring ourselves to the Lord who works within us to do great things.

Until we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter, let us spend this Lenten journey not only giving up things that prevent us from pleasing God, but also taking time to pray, meditate on the word of God, show kindness

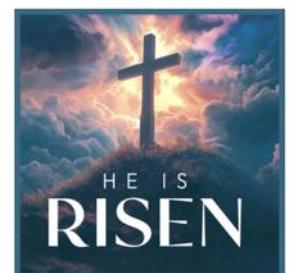
and mercy to others. So that we can truly experience the grace and love of God through our daily lives.

During this Lent, I am preaching a sermon series, "It's Not Too Late." Each week, we will explore how to draw nearer to God and learn how deep and gracious his love is. Please join us Sunday morning at 10:15, either in person or online, to listen to the Word of God.

Please join us for the Lenten Soup Supper to share a delicious meal, the love of God with one another and to remind each other of how grateful we are to be the disciples of Jesus Christ. I hope and pray that this season will be a time of renewal for each of you, that you may experience God's grace in a deeper way, and that your heart may be ready to celebrate the joy of Easter morning.

Let us walk this Lenten journey together, trusting that God is at work in us, making all things new.

*In Christ,
Pastor Miso Park*

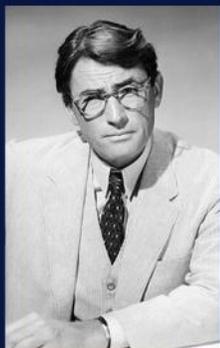


I didn't know that....

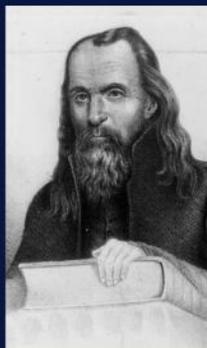
Famous Fictional Characters Who Identify as Methodist



Superman



Atticus Finch



Lorenzo Dow

Fictional characters including Superman and Atticus Finch in "To Kill a Mockingbird" have been identified as Methodist over the years. A new novel, "The Deliverance of Barker McRae," features a fictional character based on 19th-century Methodist circuit preacher Lorenzo Dow (pictured at right). Also pictured (from left) are actors Kirk Alyn, who played Superman in the 1940s, and Gregory Peck as Finch in the 1962 film "To Kill a Mockingbird." Movie stills courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and Dow photo courtesy of the "Encyclopedia of World Methodism."



For more information about the new novel 'The Deliverance of Barker MacRae', go to <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/crazy-lorenzo-joins-other-fictional-methodists> and read a very interesting article by Jim Patterson of the UM News called '*Crazy Lorenzo' joins other fictional Methodists*.

Methodists in pop culture led by Superman

Lorenzo McRae in "The Deliverance of Barker McRae" is one of a few fictional characters in movies, television and literature who are identified as Methodist, although like his real-life inspiration, Lorenzo Dow, he never achieved ordination.

The most prominent Methodist is probably Superman, who in some origin stories attended a Methodist church in Smallville as a youth.

Here are some other fictional Methodists:

[Atticus Finch](#), in the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee, attends the Methodist church in Maycomb, Alabama.

[Dinah Morris](#), in the novel "Adam Bede" by George Eliot, is a Methodist preacher.

[Chicken George](#), in the Alex Haley book and television series "Roots," is identified as a founder of New Hope Church, a Methodist church in Henning, Tennessee.

[Elmer Gantry](#), in Sinclair Lewis' satirical novel, moves from being a Baptist minister to Methodist leader despite his hypocrisy until scandal catches up with him.

[Sister Frances](#), in the television show "Call the Midwives," is an Anglican nun who grew up Methodist.

[Eden and William Thompson](#), in the novel "A Circuit Rider's Wife" by Corra Harris and the film "I'd Climb the Highest Mountain," are a Methodist circuit rider and his wife.

Missions: it's what we do

On Ash Wednesday we began our Spring Food Drive for the Paterson low income.

Please bring to church a bag of **non-perishable items** that can be stored and given out by the Methodist organization CUMAC in Paterson, NJ.



Consider items such as pasta with jarred meat sauce, soups, canned ham, rice, canned beans, peanut butter and jelly, canned tuna, canned fruit or vegetables, breakfast cereals, juices, etc.

We will bring the food down to CUMAC in Paterson, NJ during the week after Palm Sunday, March 29.

Ridgewood Orchestra Concert

Romantic Titans

March 6th ~ 8 pm

Verdi, **Overture to Nabucco** (Scott Brubaker, conductor)

Liszt, **Piano Concerto No.2** (Kwan Yi, soloist)

Mahler, **Symphony No. 1**

Tickets bought through the church are \$30 per person and all monies are donated to Bergen Highlands UMC. If you are interested in purchasing tickets please call the church and leave your name, phone number and email address. A check can be sent to the church or you can pay through Venmo by finding the QR code on the church website, bergenhighlandsumc.org, by hitting the 'Donate' button. Tickets will be emailed to you the week of the concert. It will be a wonderful concert, come and enjoy the music!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Chef Bob and
sous chef Matt
(behind him)



On February 17 we readied ourselves for Ash Wednesday by celebrating Shrove Tuesday with a pancake dinner. As always, it was delicious and lots of fun!

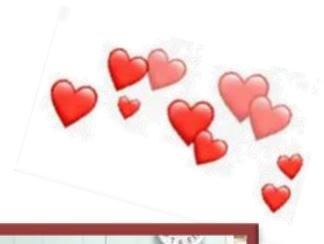


If you missed it this year, join us next
February 9, 2027.



On Feb. 1st– We packaged Valentine boxes for our college students! We sent out boxes to 4 students who are away at school to remind them we are thinking of them and are praying for them. ❤️

Seniors Learn about Candy Making



Absolutely delicious!!!



Darshana Tolani demonstrated how to make simple candies at home for friends and family.





Next Senior Gatherings

March 12~

Making Sense of Your Healthcare – A Fun Jeopardy Event

Enjoy a relaxed, interactive game while picking up practical tips to help you navigate healthcare and stay well.

What to Expect

- + Friendly, team-based game
- + Small prizes and giveaways
- + Practical tips from healthcare professionals

No experience needed — just come ready to enjoy yourself

Hosted by **NexStep Health**

Meet at 11am. Lunch will be provided at 12 by Bergen highlands UMC.

April 9~

T'ai Chi for Seniors

Shari Slavin is certified Tai Chi and Qiqong instructor. She has an undergraduate degree in chemistry and has been fascinated with and has studied Eastern meditation techniques with a variety of meditation masters for 35 years. Tai Chi, often called 'meditation in motion,' is a low-impact, gentle exercise that reduces stress, anxiety and depression while improving balance, flexibility, and muscle strength. It enhances cardiovascular health, lowers blood pressure, and helps manage chronic conditions.

Make BHUMC your destination to learn Tai Chi with your friends

Activity at 11am, lunch at 12.

Alexandar Ross Memorial Scholarship



Alexandar Ross, a graduate of Walkkill Valley Regional High School, is remembered as a bright, energetic, and caring young man. This scholarship award of \$1000 has been set up to honor his memory by helping to further the education of another caring student who intends to pursue his/her own field of study at an accredited trade school, college, or university.

We seek a student who demonstrates a genuine commitment to supporting others and has actively participated in their community, whether through school activities or private organizations. Interested applicants are invited to visit the church website at bergenhighlandsumc.org and locate the Alexander Ross Memorial Scholarship link on the Home page. This link will direct you to the application form, which is available for download.

Upon completion of the form, all required information should be mailed by **April 15, 2025** to:

Bergen Highlands United Methodist Church
318 W. Saddle River Road
Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458

:: What's Next on the Calendar? ::

- March 6—World Day of Prayer
- March 8—Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 12—Senior Gathering
- March 17—Soup Supper/St. Patrick's Day
- March 20—First Day of Spring
- March 29—End of Spring CUMAC food drive
- March 29—Palm Sunday / Easter Egg Hunt
- April 2—Holy Thursday Service; 7pm
- April 5—Easter Sunday
- April 9—Senior Gathering
- April 16—Cooking for Missions
- May 2—Best Stuff Sale!!!
- June 13—Strawberry Festival



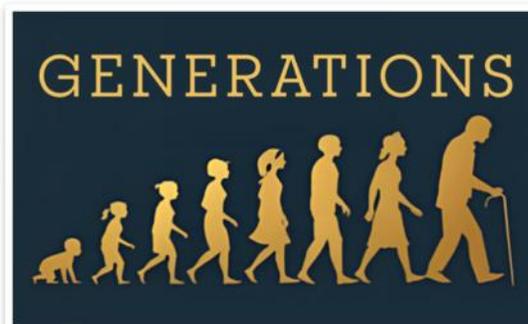
March/April Sermon Series



	Ash Wednesday
2/18	It's Not Too Late for a change of Heart Psalm 51
2/22	It's Not Too Late to Choose Life Deuteronomy 30:15-20
3/1	It's Not Too Late to Listen to God 1 Kings 19:4-16
3/8	It's Not Too Late to Be Forgiven Luke 15:11-32
3/15	It's Not Too Late to Take Ownership Acts 9:1-22
3/22	It's Not Too Late to Live Differently Luke 19:1-10
3/29	Palm Sunday It's Not Too Late to Stand Up and Stand Out Matthew 21:1-11
4/2	Holy Thursday It's Not Too Late for a New Commandment John 13:1-17,31-35
4/5	It's Not Too Late for Us Because It's Not Too Late for God Matthew 28:1-10

After Easter Sermon Series

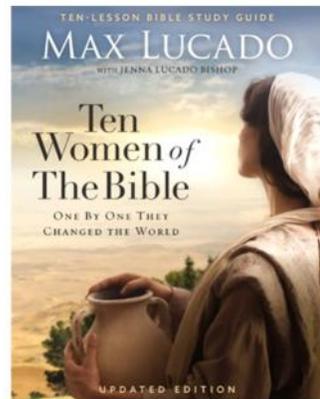
4/12	Standing on the Promises Luke 2:25-38
4/19	I'm Really Listening 1 Samuel 3:1-18
4/26	Formed and Freed 1 Timothy 4:6-16
5/3	Where You Go, I Will Go Ruth 1:1-18





ADULT Bible Study

Tuesdays ~ 7PM



March 3	The Canaanite woman
March 31	Mary of Bethany
April 7	Mary Magdalene
April 14	Sapphira

March 17th 6 pm

Enjoy homemade soups, delicious breads, salads, desserts, etc. Want to donate something toward the dinner?

There's a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex (hallway). Everything is always delicious...I'm bringing Irish Soda Bread from Rockland Bakery!



**SAVE THE DATE
COMMUNITY
BLOOD
DRIVE**

Appointments strongly recommended
1.877.258.4825 Vitalant Donor Program

Let's come together to make a difference. Be a blood donor today!
Every drop counts

**16
APRIL
2026**

THURSDAY 03:00 - 08:00 318 W. SADDLE RIVER ROAD, UPPER SADDLE RIVER, NJ
Bergen Highlands United Methodist Church

QUESTIONS?
WOMANSClubOFUSR@GMAIL.COM JOAN: 201.887.1048

Thursday April 16

The Woman's Club of USR will be holding a blood drive with a mobile unit outside **Bergen Highlands UMC** between the hours of 3pm and 8pm. There is a huge need for blood at this time and you are the person that could save someone's life by donating one pint of yours. Think about donating, it's an easy thing to do.

Call 1.877.258.4825 to make an appointment.



*The Churches of Upper Saddle River in collaboration
with Peace Islands Institute invites you to an*

IFTAR DINNER

SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH

6:00PM - 8:15PM

CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION

PARISH CENTER

(rear entrance)

271 W SADDLE RIVER RD

UPPER SADDLE RIVER, NJ 07458



Please RSVP using the QR Code or
CALL 201-327-5242



Lenten Bible Reading Plan

Journey to the Cross

 Matthew 21:1-11

 John 12:1-11

 John 12:12-19

 Mark 11:12-26

 Matthew 21:23-32

 Mark 12:1-12

 Matthew 22:1-14

 Luke 20:9-26

 Luke 20:27-40

 Matthew 22:34-46

 Matthew 23:1-39

 Mark 12:41-44

 Mark 13:1-13

 Matthew 24:15-35

 Matthew 24:36-51

 Matthew 25:1-13

 Matthew 25:14-30

 Matthew 25:31-46

 John 12:20-50

 Mark 14:12-26

 John 13:1-17

 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

 John 13:18-38

 Luke 22:24-38

 Matthew 26:31-35

 John 14:1-31

 John 15:1-27; John 16:1-4

 John 16:5-33

 John 17:1-26

 Matthew 26:36-56

 John 18:1-18

 Mark 14:32-72

 Luke 22:39-62

 John 18:19-40

 John 19:1-16

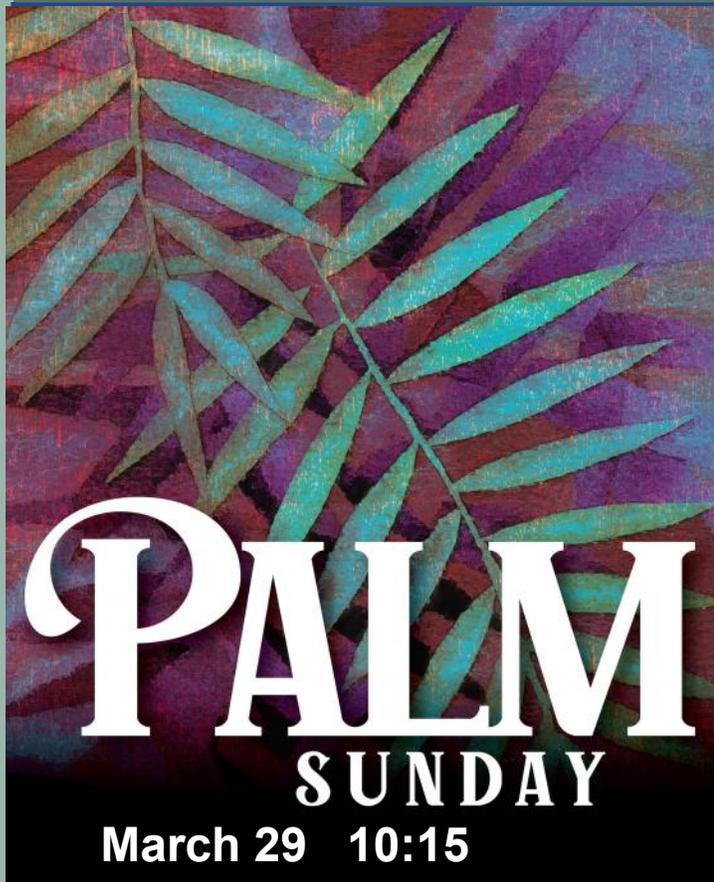
 Matthew 27:27-44

 Luke 23:26-49

 John 19:16-27

 John 19:28-42

 John 20:1-31

PALM SUNDAY

March 29 10:15

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

After worship on Palm Sunday all adults will hide Easter eggs for 3 min. Children ages 12 and under will get their own egg carton and then head out on their egg hunt! Solid colored eggs have candy, decorated eggs have prizes and toys.

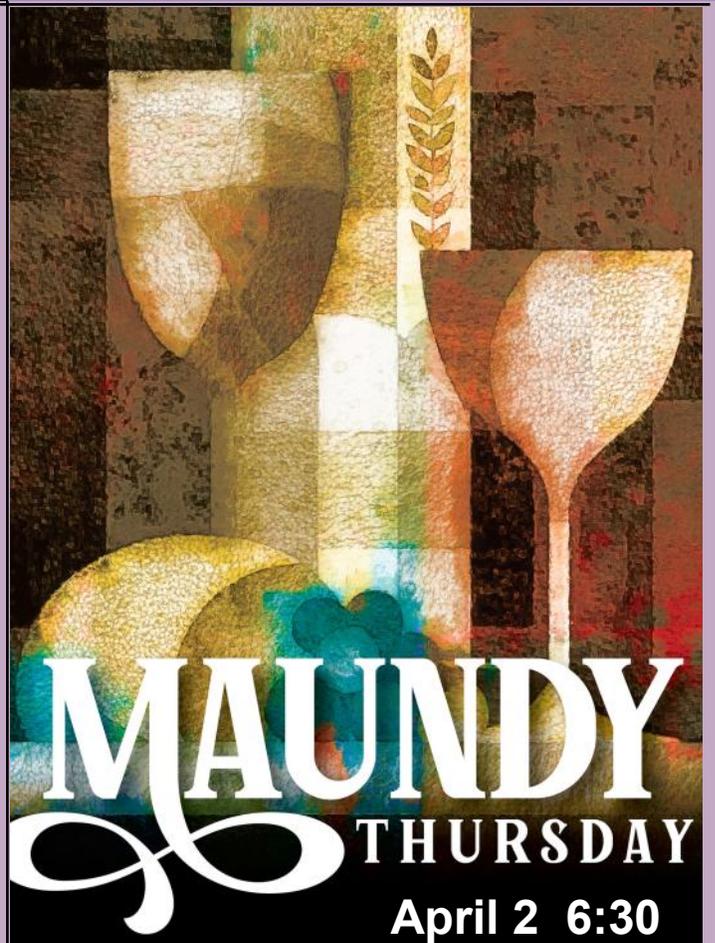
Everyone goes home with their own eggs!




Looking to Jesus,
the founder and
PERFECTER
of our faith,

who for the joy
that was set before
him endured the cross
despising the shame,
and is seated at the
right hand of the
throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2, ESV



MAUNDY THURSDAY

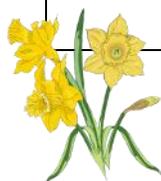
April 2 6:30



Easter Altar Flower Form

It's time for this year's Easter flower order so the order must be in by **March 22nd**.

<i>Flower</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Amt.</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
Tulip	\$10.50		
Daffodil	\$10.50		
Hyacinth	\$10.50		
Lily	\$11.00		
Martha Washington Geranium	\$11.00		
	Totals		



Please use this form to indicate the plants you wish to order for our Easter Worship!

Flower orders are due by Sunday, March 22nd. Thanks!

Important! Orders received after March 22nd can not guarantee your choice of plants.

Name: _____

Given in honor of _____

Given in memory of _____



Please return this form with payment to:

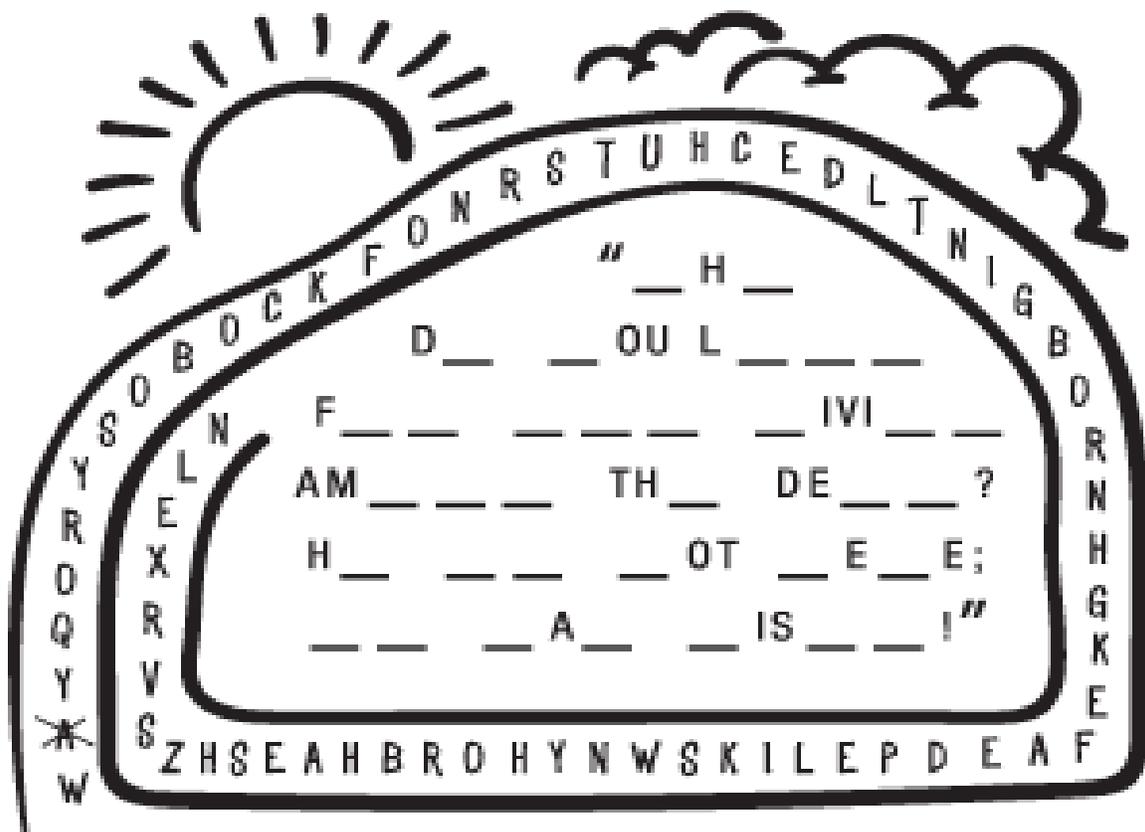
Bergen Highlands UMC, 318 West Saddle River Road, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458



EASTER MORNING *message*

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.



LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV



Keep these Dates on Your Calendar!!

Best Stuff Sale May 2nd



We need your help to fill the shed! Time to clean out the house! Get your friends and neighbors to help. We accept **clean, unbroken items** that your friends might like to buy. No clothing, vhs tapes, or adult age reading books, please.

Strawberry Festival June 13

EVERYBODY gets a job! Picking, slicing, serving, cleaning...it's a lot of work but it's also a lot of smiles!



More info will be coming.

Join us for...

LEGO CLUB!



4 Thursdays in July

July 9, 16, 23, and 30

For ages 5-12

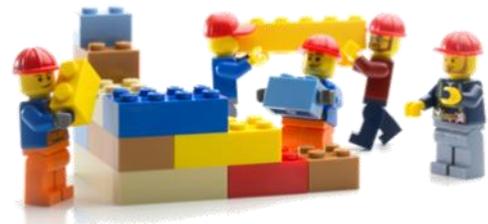
Dinner, a Bible story (told with LEGOs!)
and lots of LEGO building!

For ages 5-12, \$10 per child, per night.
Choose your nights when you register

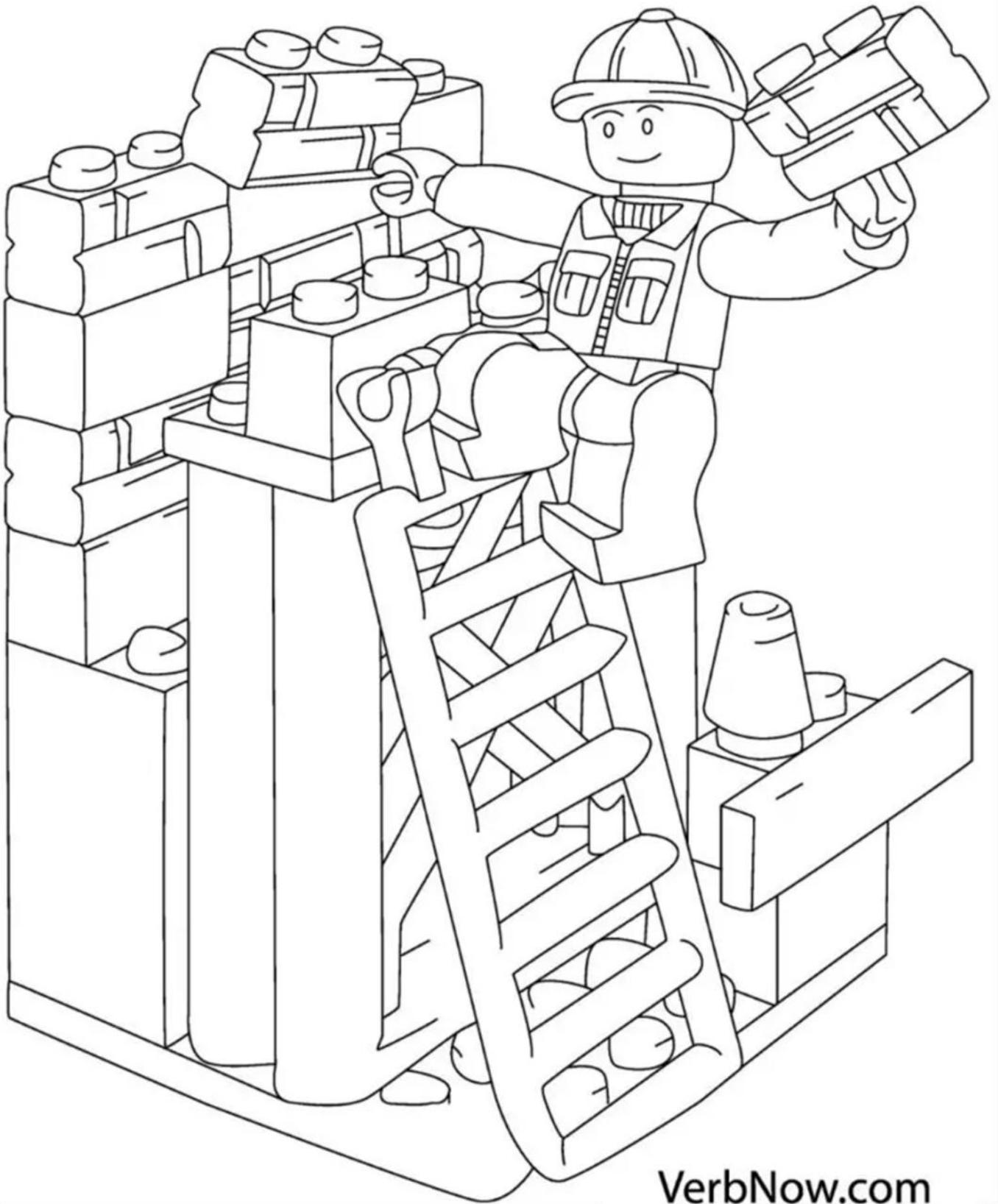
Bergen Highlands United Methodist Church
318 West Saddle River Rd. Upper Saddle River

Register online at-
bergenhighlandsumc.org

Registration ends June 1st.
Checks, cash or Venmo must
be received by June 15th.



Get ready for LEGO Club, color in 'the Walls of Jericho'.



O Lord, Father of Light, from whom comes all good and perfect gifts. We are ever thankful for your love and presence in our lives and want to show our love in return by sharing our gifts with those of your children in need. Look upon us with mercy and grant us the health and courage we need to carry out our service to you and those in need. In Jesus' name. Amen

Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

(NIV)



Keep Them In Your Prayers

- ◆ **Emmanuel Soremekun** (Olan's father) - for easy recovery from his pacemaker surgery.
- ◆ **Beverly Schaver** (Carla's friend) - who is about to have brain surgery to help with Parkinson's.
- ◆ **Dave Magnone** (Lorraine's brother) - who is about to enter assisted living.
- ◆ **Brian Magnone** (Lorraine's brother) - who has suffered an ocular stroke and has lost partial sight. We are praying for full recovery.
- ◆ **Jean** (Pat's friend) - who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's.
- ◆ **Allyson's Family**—on the loss of her brother, Norman.
- ◆ **Xander** (Carla's grandson) - who was recently diagnosed with juvenile diabetes.
- ◆ **Becky** (Matt's Mom) - for an easy transition to assisted living.
- ◆ **Silverstein Family**—on the passing of Pamala, Russell's mother, a difficult loss.
- ◆ **Alan Silverstein** (Russell's Dad) - for recovery from difficult health issues.
- ◆ **Del Rosario Family**—on the loss of Armand's brother.
- ◆ **Teresita** (Bess' aunt)- who is fighting cancer.
- ◆ **Alphee Family**—on the loss of Jean's aunt.
- ◆ **Pineda Family** (Armand's good friend, Romeo) - who recently passed away
- ◆ **Cian** (the 13 yr old Nephew of Melissa Case's Friend) - battling tissue cancer which has a low.
- ◆ **Melissa's friend**—who lost her 2yr old son.
- ◆ **Ed**—(Julia's brother) - as he battles cancer
- ◆ **Jude Walker** (Matt's grand nephew)-prayers for this 19yr old who is still bed ridden after a car accident on May 12, 2023.
- ◆ **Georgia Greiner**—for more strength and health that matches her spirit for life.
- ◆ **For all those in pain** today who need our prayers but have not yet asked.



**Bergen Highlands
United Methodist
Church**

**318 West Saddle River Rd
Upper Saddle River, NJ
07458**

Church: 201-327-3960
Parsonage: 201-934-1618

Join Us!



Important BHUMC Dates for 2026

- Jan. 4**—Epiphany Sunday
- Jan. 22**—Cooking for Missions
- Feb. 8**—Valentine Boxes for College Students
- Feb. 12**—Senior Gathering
- Feb. 17**—Pancake Supper, 6pm
- Feb. 18**—Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30pm.
- Feb. 18-March 29**—Spring CUMAC Food Drive
- Feb. 19**—Cooking for Missions
- March 8**—Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 12**—Senior Gathering
- March 17**— Soup Supper; 6pm
- March 29** -Palm Sunday Service
- March 29**—Easter Egg Hunt after service (ages 12 and under)
- April 2**—Holy Thursday Service; 7:00pm
- April 5**—Easter Sunday Service
- April 9**—Senior Gathering
- April 16**—Cooking for Missions
- May 2**—Best Stuff Sale; 9am-2pm
- May 10**—Mother's Day
- May 14**—Senior Gathering
- May 17-19**—Annual Conference
- June 12**—Strawberry Picking, 8:30am.
- June 13**—Strawberry Festival, Rain or Shine
- June 14**—Father's Day
- June 18**—Cooking for Missions
- July 5**—Summer Worship begins- New service hours 9:15am
- July 9, 16, 23, 30**—LEGO Club VBS, 5:30pm-7:30pm
- Aug. 20**—Cooking for Missions
- Sept. 13**—Back to Fall Service Hour; 10:15am and BBQ after church
- Sept. TBA**—USR Day, noon-6p
- Oct. 4**—World Communion Sunday
- Oct 8**—Senior Gathering
- Oct. 18-Nov.22**—Fall Food Drive
- Oct. 22**—Cooking for Missions
- Nov. 12**—Senior Gathering
- Dec. 6**—Hanging of the Greens
- Dec. 6**—Final day to order/pay for poinsettias
- Dec. 6**—Final Toy Drive drop off date
- Dec. 10**—Senior Gathering
- Dec. 24**—Candlelight Service, 5:30pm
- Dec. 25**- Christmas Day

- **Adult Bible Study**-Tuesdays beginning at 7:00; call for more info 201-327-3960
- **Adult Choir**-Before church service
- **Children's and Youth Choirs**-Thursday at 3:30pm
- **BHUMC Youth Group**— TBA
- **Executive Leadership Team** —as needed after church, Contact person-Pat Hiler or Pastor Miso Park 201-327-3960



Put these dates on YOUR calendar!

Dates and times can occasionally change, for more info call 201-327-3960, thanks.

If you have a suggestion for the newsletter, send an email to:
bergenhighlandsumc@gmail.com